

DUTY OF CARE POLICY			
Policy No: MGT6		Version No: 1.2	
Ratified: 13/5/2020	Review Cycle: 4 year	Last Review: Feb 2023	
Policy Owner: Assistant Principal Wellbeing		Approver: Principal	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain to our school community the non-delegable duty of care obligations that all staff at Fairhills High School owe to our students and members of the school community who visit and use the school premises.

POLICY

“Duty of care” is a legal obligation that requires all schools, including Fairhills High School, to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm, which can include personal injury (physical or psychological) or damage to property. The reasonable steps that Fairhills High School may decide to take in response to a potential risk or hazard will depend on the circumstances of the risk.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Detailed implementation guidelines are developed by the staff through the established consultative committee process. These are developed within the parameters of the Council policy and can be changed as circumstances or strategies change without further reference to Council.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Our school has developed policies and procedures to manage common risks in the school environment, including:

- Yard duty and Supervision
- Bullying Prevention
- Camps and Excursions
- First Aid
- Tree and Grounds Maintenance
- Personal Property
- Child Safe Standards
- External Providers (including RTOS delivering VET/VCAL)
- Emergency Management
- Volunteers
- Visitors
- Working with Children and Suitability Checks
- Mandatory Reporting
- Occupational Health and Safety

Our school acknowledges we are required to take reasonable precautions to prevent the abuse of a child by an individual associated with the organisation while the child is under the care, supervision or authority of the organisation.

Staff at our school understand that school activities involve different levels of risk and that particular care may need to be taken to support younger students or students with additional needs. Our school also understands that it is responsible for ensuring that the school premises are kept in good repair and will take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of members of our community suffering injury or damage because of the state of the premises.

School staff, parents, carers and students are encouraged to speak to the Principal or OHS Delegate to raise any concerns about risks or hazards at our school, or our duty of care obligations.

External Providers

Staff at Fairhills High School acknowledge that, as our duty of care is non-delegable, we are also required to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm when external providers have been engaged to plan for or conduct an activity involving our students. Our *Visitors Policy* and *Camps and Excursions Policy* include information on the safety and care of our students when engaged with external providers. Our school also takes steps to ensure student safety when they are engaging in off-site workplace learning programs with external providers, such as when students are participating in work experience, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, structured workplace learning and any other workplace learning program involving external providers. Our School will follow all applicable Department of Education and Training policy and guidelines in relation to off-site learning and will ensure that the safety and welfare of the students engaging in these activities is paramount. The Department's guidelines in relation to Workplace Learning are available at the following link:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/workplace.aspx>

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Duty of Care
- School Policy and Advisory Guide: Workplace Learning

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated 13th May 2024 and is scheduled for review in May 2029.

VERSION CONTROL TABLE

Version	Author	Date	Change Made
1.1	Toni Kirk	22 Feb 2023	updated title panel, added version and date to footer and added version control table

1.2	Toni Kirk	7 July 2025	Updated as per Child Audit to include acknowledgement to prevent abuse